United Nations A/69/6 (Prog. 8)

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 February 2014

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Item 134 of the preliminary list*
Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 8
Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

Contents

	Page
Overall orientation	2
Subprogramme 1. Least developed countries	3
Subprogramme 2. Landlocked developing countries	5
Subprogramme 3. Small island developing States	6
Legislative mandates	7

* A/69/50.

14-22892 (E) 190214

Please recycle

Overall orientation

8.1 The legislative authority for the programme derives from General Assembly resolutions: resolution 56/227, whereby the Assembly decided to establish the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; resolution 65/280, whereby the Assembly endorsed the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020; resolution 58/201, whereby the Assembly endorsed the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Almaty Declaration; resolution 63/2, whereby the Assembly adopted the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action; and resolution 59/311, whereby the Assembly endorsed the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

8.2 The mandate of the programme covers four main elements:

(a) Mobilization and coordination of international support and resources for the effective implementation of: (i) the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020; (ii) the outcome of the 10-year review of the Almaty Programme of Action; and (iii) the outcome of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States;

(b) Enhanced monitoring and follow-up to the three programmes of action;

(c) Awareness-raising and advocacy with respect to the three groups of countries (least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States) and their respective programmes of action;

(d) Reporting on the implementation of the programmes of action as effective tools for reaching the international development goals of the three groups of countries.

8.3 The programme will also contribute to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals and in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and international agreements. It will mobilize international support in favour of its three groups of constituencies in the areas of capacity-building and increased technical and financial resources in promoting sustained growth and sustainable development. Gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment are an important dimension in the implementation of the three programmes of action.

8.4 The overall programme of work of the Office of the High Representative is designed around three interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, namely, subprogramme 1, Least developed countries, subprogramme 2, Landlocked developing countries, and subprogramme 3, Small island developing States.

8.5 The Office of the High Representative will use a combination of the following approaches and strategies:

(a) Raising awareness and advocating that the concerns of the three groups of countries be placed high on the global development cooperation agenda, to maintain the focus on their special needs;

(b) Monitoring and follow-up to foster supportive policies in groups of countries in special situations and their development partners in accordance with their respective programmes of action and other internationally agreed development goals, including the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals;

(c) Working with development partners, United Nations system organizations and other international and regional organizations, as well as parliaments and civil society, to ensure the mainstreaming of priorities identified in each of the three programmes of action at the national level, enhancing coherence between global policies and national strategies;

(d) Undertaking capacity-building of the three groups of countries towards the effective implementation of the programmes of action at the national level;

(e) Building partnerships towards the implementation of the three programmes of action and promoting South-South cooperation in various areas for the benefit of the countries of the three groups;

(f) Reaching out to all stakeholders, including partnerships with parliaments, civil society, foundations, the media, academia and the private sector, to enhance support for the three groups of countries;

(g) Maximizing synergies among the three subprogrammes, given the commonalities of problems and challenges of the countries in the three groups, including their structural weaknesses, their vulnerability to external shocks, the smallness of their economies, their marginal position in the world economy, their limited access to technology and their geographical disadvantages.

Subprogramme 1
Least developed countries

Objective of the Organization: To enable the least developed countries to achieve the goals of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including graduation from the least developed country category, and other internationally agreed development goals, including the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, and contribute to mobilizing international support

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased global awareness and debate on development issues of relevance to the least developed countries, including gender dimensions	(a) (i) Increased number of resolutions, agreed conclusions, ministerial declarations and communiqués, reflecting consensus on major issues of direct relevance to the least developed countries
	(ii) Increased number of visits by unique end users to the website of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

(b) Effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and other internationally agreed development goals related to the least developed countries, including increased international support for graduation	(b) (i) Increased number of the least developed countries meeting the criteria for graduation (ii) Increased number of trading partners of the least developed countries implementing duty-free and quota-free market access
(c) Enhanced coordination among entities of the United Nations system and other international and multilateral organizations to ensure integrated follow-up and support for the least developed countries	(c) (i) Increased number of entities of the United Nations system and other international and multilateral organizations that provide support to the least developed countries and report on their activities (ii) Increased number of joint activities that have a direct and positive impact on least developed countries, including task forces, workshops, seminars, panels, briefings and publications

Strategy

8.6 The strategy for the Least Developed Countries Unit will focus on:

(a) Raising awareness about the special needs of the least developed countries and advocating in favour of their special treatment, including through the integration of the provisions of the Istanbul Programme of Action into national development and cooperation frameworks by the least developed countries and development partners;

(b) Giving due priority to promoting the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals in the least developed countries;

(c) Mobilizing international support and resources in support of the development objectives of the least developed countries, including through South-South cooperation and support for a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism as well as enhanced investment;

(d) Strengthening United Nations system coordination and coherence, and building partnerships in support of the development objectives of the least developed countries, including participation in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;

(e) Monitoring the achievement of the objectives, goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels with a view to conducting a meaningful midterm review;

(f) Undertaking capacity-building of the least developed countries, including all relevant stakeholders, for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including graduation from the category, at the country level;

(g) Facilitating the effective participation of the least developed countries in the decision-making of various intergovernmental bodies, including through analytical work.

Subprogramme 2
Landlocked developing countries

Objective of the Organization: To enable landlocked developing countries to achieve the goals of a new programme of action aimed at addressing their special needs, and the internationally agreed development goals, including the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, through strengthened transit systems, productive capacities, diversification, industrialization, connection to value chains, and the enhanced mobilization of international support

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Timely and effective implementation of the new programme of action	(a) Increased number of landlocked developing countries mainstreaming the new programme of action into their national development strategies
(b) Improved capacity of landlocked developing countries to participate effectively in the international trading system through increased regional and subregional cooperation, improved legal framework, and strengthened transit cooperation and trade facilitation	(b) (i) Increased number of specific trade facilitation initiatives implemented by landlocked developing countries, such as the standardization and simplification of procedures for border crossing, the freedom of transit, transparency, the reduction of fees, the use of single windows, and transit traffic agreements in accordance with the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation (ii) Increased number of specific initiatives undertaken by the United Nations system and international organizations to improve the legal framework in transit and trade facilitation
(c) Increased international support to the follow-up to the new programme of action and increased coordination of the United Nations system participation and support	(c) (i) Increased number of new declarations, resolutions and decisions at the global and regional levels in favour of landlocked developing countries (ii) Increased number of joint initiatives undertaken by the United Nations system and international organizations that have a direct and positive impact on landlocked developing countries

Strategy

8.7 The strategy for the Landlocked Developing Countries Unit will focus on:

(a) Serving as a focal point for the United Nations system for the overall coordination of, mobilization for, monitoring and reporting on, the implementation of the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the post-2015 development agenda as related to landlocked developing countries;

(b) Raising awareness and advocating for the special needs of landlocked developing countries at the international and regional levels;

(c) Supporting landlocked developing countries at the national and regional levels for the effective mainstreaming of the new programme of action into their national and regional development strategies;

(d) Mobilizing international support and resources and strengthening partnerships at the national, regional and global levels for the implementation of the new programme of action;

(e) Undertaking research and analysis on the impact of "landlockedness" on economic growth and the effective participation of landlocked developing countries in international trade, and developing policy recommendations;

(f) Improving coordination of the United Nations system, other international, regional and subregional organizations, development partners and the private sector in the effective implementation of the new programme of action.

Subprogramme 3
Small island developing States

Objective of the Organization: To enable small island developing States to foster achievement of the outcomes of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased recognition and awareness of the special case and vulnerabilities of small island developing States in the implementation processes of the outcome of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States at the national, regional and global levels	(a) (i) Increased number of declarations, resolutions, decisions and provisions in support of the implementation of the outcome of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (ii) Increased number of advocacy activities that have a direct and positive impact on small island developing States, including capacity-building workshops, meetings, briefings and publications

(b) Enhanced international support to small island developing States in implementing the outcome of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and in adapting to and mitigating climate change	(b) Increased number of development partners that pledge support for small island developing States under the climate change financing mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund
(c) Enhanced inter-agency collaboration and partnerships in support of small island developing States	(c) Increased number of joint programmes and activities by development partners, the United Nations system, the private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations that have a direct and positive impact on small island developing States, including capacity-building workshops, and technical and financial assistance

Strategy

8.8 The strategy of the Small Island Developing States Unit will focus on:

(a) Actively promoting awareness of the issues and the special case of small island developing States through consistent advocacy internationally;

(b) Advocating and mobilizing international support towards the implementation of the outcome of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States and other internationally agreed goals;

(c) Supporting the building of partnerships towards the implementation of the outcome of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States;

(d) Through the inter-agency consultative group, supporting coherence and active participation of the United Nations system, other international organizations, subregional and regional organizations, the private sector and civil society in the implementation of the outcome of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the post-2015 development agenda.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
65/1	Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals
66/288	The future we want
67/290	Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
68/1	Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council

Subprogramme 1
Least developed countries

General Assembly resolutions

56/227	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
65/280	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020
65/286	Implementing the smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries
66/213	Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
67/220	Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
67/221	Smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries
68/224	Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2009/31	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
2010/27	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
2011/9	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020
2012/26	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020
2013/46	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

Subprogramme 2
Landlocked developing countries

General Assembly resolutions

58/201	Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries

63/2	Outcome document of the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries
65/172	Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation
66/214	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation
67/222	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation
68/225	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Subprogramme 3
Small island developing States

General Assembly resolutions

59/311	International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
64/199	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
65/156	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
66/198	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

67/206	International Year of Small Island Developing States
67/207	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
68/238	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States